

No. 4,502,054). Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suganuma in view of Brescia and Miroku (U.S. Patent No. 4,633,268). Claims 6, 7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suganuma as modified by Brescia and further in view of Murakami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,158,844). Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suganuma as modified by Brescia and Murakami and further in view of Miyashita et al. (U.S. Pub. 2002/0136823). Claims 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suganuma in view of Brescia. Claims 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suganuma in view of Brescia and Miroku.

Suganuma can be removed by perfecting a claim to foreign priority. The earliest effective filing date of Suganuma is July 30, 2003, which is after the priority date of January 29, 2003, of the above-identified application. In addition, the priority documents for Suganuma published around January 30, 2004, and therefore, would not qualify as prior art. Accordingly, Suganuma may be removed by perfecting the foreign priority, i.e., by filing a verified translation of the foreign priority document. Applicant submits herewith a verified translation of priority documents JP 2003-020585 (filed January 29, 2003) and JP 2003-095215 (filed January 29, 2003). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-17 are fully supported by the two priority documents. Since Applicant has perfected priority for the present application and since the priority documents fully support the claimed subject matter, Applicant submits that Suganuma does not qualify as prior art.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/765,469

Attorney Docket No.: Q78016

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 20, 2006